

REMARKS

Claims 2-32 and 52-62 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 2, 4, 6-12, 15, 18-21, 25 and 28-31 are amended and claims 1 and 51 are canceled. No new matter is added.

Entry of the amendments is proper under 37 CFR §1.116 since the amendments: (a) place the application in condition for allowance (for the reasons discussed herein); (b) do not raise any new issue requiring further search and/or consideration; (c) do not present any additional claims; and (d) place the application in better form for appeal, should an appeal be necessary. Entry of the amendments is thus respectfully requested.

I. Allowed Claims

Applicants appreciate the Office Action's indication that claims 52-62 are allowed.

II. Rejoinder of Withdrawn Claims

By this Amendment, withdrawn claims 4, 6, 9-12, 15, 21 and 31, and claim 25 (from which withdrawn claim 27 depends) are amended to depend from allowed claim 62 instead of claim 1. Thus, Applicants submit that withdrawn claims 4-6, 9-17, 21-24, 27 and 31-32 should be rejoined and allowed.

III. Claim Rejections

The Office Action (i) rejects claims 1-2, 7, 18-19, 25-26, 28-30 and 51 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 5,343,490 to McCall; (ii) rejects claim 3 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over McCall in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,638,773 to Hwang et al. (Hwang); (iii) rejects claim 8 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over McCall in view of Hwang, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,559,824 to Baird et al. (Baird); and (iv) rejects claim 20 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over McCall in view of Kinoshita and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,219,369 to Portnoi et al. (Portnoi). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections.

By this Amendment, claims 2, 4, 6-12, 15, 18-21, 25 and 28-31 are amended to depend from allowed claim 62, and claims 1 and 51 are canceled. Thus, the rejections are moot. Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejections.

IV. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of the claims are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,


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